This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously Presented): A process for the production of mono-dispersed, spherical, nonporous SiO<sub>2</sub> particles by hydrolytic polycondensation of tetraalkoxysilanes and/or organotrialkoxysilanes, said process comprising:

conducting said hydrolytic polycondensation of tetraalkoxysilanes and/or organotrialkoxysilanes in a medium comprising water, one or more solubilizers, and ethanolamine.

- 2. (Previously Presented): A process according to Claim 1, wherein a sol of primary particles is first produced, and the resultant SiO<sub>2</sub> particles are subsequently brought to the desired particle size in such a way that further nucleation is prevented by continuous metered addition of corresponding silane controlled to the extent of reaction.
- 6. (Previously Presented): A process according to Claim 1, wherein the proportion of ethanolamine in the medium is from 0.1 to 5% by weight.
- 7. (Previously Presented): A process according to Claim 1, wherein the one or more solubilizers are in each case an alcohol, a ketone, a dialkyl sulfoxide, a pyrrolidone, an alkyl nitrile, a furan, or a dioxane.
- 8. (Previously Presented): A process according to Claim 1, wherein the alkoxy group of the tetraalkoxysilane is in each case a methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, butoxy or pentoxy group.
- 9. (Previously Presented): A process according to Claim 1, wherein the hydrolytic polycondensation is carried out at temperatures between 25 and 78°C.
  - 10. (Previously Presented): A process according to Claim 1, wherein one or more

dyes are additionally added to the medium during the hydrolytic polycondensation.

- 11. (Previously Presented): A process according to Claim 10, wherein said dye is a fluorescent dye.
- 12. (Previously Presented): A process according to Claim 10, wherein said dye is a terminally silylated fluorescent dye of the formula:

 $R^1R^2R^3SiR^4$ ,

in which

 $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are identical or different and stand for halogen atoms, alkyl, aryl, alkoxy or silyloxy groups,

 $R^4$  has the complex structure  $A^1$ - $B_m$ - $C_n$ - $A^2$ ,

m and n are each zero or 1,

A<sup>1</sup> is an alkylene chain or a heteroanalogous structure,

B is a functional sequence,

C is a bifunctional organic sequence having a chain or ring structure which is linked to  $A^2$ , and

 $A^2$  is a fluorophoric system or a dye molecule which is bonded to C or, if n is equal to zero, is bonded to B or, if m and n are both equal to zero, is bonded to  $A^1$ .

- 13. (Previously Presented): A process according to Claim 12, wherein the functional sequence B in R<sup>4</sup> is carbonyl, oxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, aminothiocarbonyl, or a hetero atom.
- 14. (Previously Presented): A process according to Claim 12, wherein the bifunctional sequence C in  $R^4$  is an alkylene unit, a substituted alkylene unit, or a heteroanalogous alkylene unit, which in each case is linked to  $A^2$  via a carbon, nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur atom.
- 15. (Previously Presented): A process according to Claim 12, wherein the bifunctional sequence C in R<sup>4</sup> is a hydroxy- or aminocarboxylic acid radical, or an ester or

amide thereof.

- 16. (Previously Presented): A process according to Claim 12, wherein the alkoxy group is a methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, butoxy or pentoxy group.
- 17. (Previously Presented): A powder consisting of mono-dispersed, spherical, nonporous SiO<sub>2</sub> particles obtainable by a process according to Claim 1.
- 18. (Previously Presented): A powder according to Claim 17, wherein the  $SiO_2$  particles have a mean particle diameter of between 0.05 and 10  $\mu m$ .
  - 19. (Cancelled):
- 20. (Previously Presented): A process according to Claim 1, wherein the proportion of ethanolamine in the medium is from 0.5 to 2% by weight.
- 21. (Previously Presented): A process according to Claim 1, wherein the proportion of ethanolamine in the medium is from 0.5 to 3% by weight.
- 22. (Previously Presented): A process according to Claim 1, wherein the hydrolytic polycondensation is carried out at temperatures between 30 and 75°C
- 23. (Previously Presented): A process according to Claim 1, wherein the hydrolytic polycondensation is carried out at temperatures between 40 and 55°C.
- 24. (Previously Presented): A process according to Claim 13, wherein the functional sequence B in R<sup>4</sup> is carbonyl, oxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, aminothiocarbonyl, oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur.
- 25. (Previously Presented): A process according to Claim 12, wherein m is 1, and the functional sequence B in R<sup>4</sup> is carbonyl, oxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, aminothiocarbonyl,

or a hetero atom.

- 26. (Previously Presented): A process according to Claim 12, wherein n is 1, and the bifunctional sequence C in  $R^4$  is a hydroxy- or aminocarboxylic acid radical, or an ester or amide thereof.
- 27. (Previously Presented): A process according to Claim 1, wherein said medium contains 2-25 % by weight water, 0.1-5 % by weight ethanolamine, 70-90 % by weight solubilizers, and 2-40 % by weight tetraalkoxysilane, based on the total weight of the medium.
- 28. (Previously Presented): A process according to Claim 1, wherein said medium contains 2-25 % by weight water, 0.5-3 % by weight ethanolamine, 70-90 % by weight solubilizers, and 5-15 % by weight tetraalkoxysilane, based on the total weight of the medium.